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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/088,013

04/24/2002

Masami Taguchi

112280

4931

7590

07/13/2004

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, KIM T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3713

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/088,013

Applicant(s)

TAGUCHI, MASAMI

Examiner

Kim Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/14/02.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

1. Claims 1-14 are objected to because of the following informalities:
  - a) In claim 1, line 10; claim 4, line 4; claim 5, line 9; claim 6, line 5; claim 8, line 11, claim 11, line 4; claim 12, line 11; and claim 13, line 5, the claimed limitation “a player” should be corrected to “the player”.
  - b) In claim 1, lines 16, 18-19, 21, and 23-24; claim 2, line 3; claim 3, line 5; claim 6, lines 7-8; claim 7, lines 3, 5 and 6, claim 8, lines 17, 19-20, 22, and 24-25; claim 9, line 3; claim 10, line 5; claim 13, lines 7-8; and claim 14, lines 3, 5 and 6, the claimed limitation “a selection input” should be corrected to “the selection input”.
  - c) In claim 5, line 17; and claim 12, line 19, the claimed limitation “selection inputs” should be corrected to “the selection inputs”.
  - d) In claim 7, line 2; claim 13, line 8; and claim 14, line 2, the claimed limitation “a content” should be corrected to “the content”.
  - e) In claim 13, line 2, the claimed limitation “a computer” should be corrected to “the computer”.

Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koji (JP 2000-162959).

a. As per claim 1-2, Koji discloses an information supply system for a multi-player game.

The system comprises information generation means for generating information to perform multi-player game; supply means for supplying the generated information to the terminal device (paragraphs 0023 and 0027); acquisition means for acquiring selection input, the multi-player game generated different responses corresponding to an individual selection input (paragraph 0006); the generation means generates first game information and second game information; first and second game response information are generated corresponding to the first and second selection input (paragraphs 0029 and 0034); the supply means supplies the first and second game information (paragraph 0006). Koji does not explicitly disclose supplying the first and second response information to the terminal devices. However, since Koji discloses varying the scenario according to the selection input by the players (paragraphs 0023 and 0029), Koji obviously includes a response device to change the output in response to the selection inputs of the players. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

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made to include the response device of Koji to the supply means in order to enclose accepting input and output in the same supply means.

b. As per claim 3, Koji discloses providing the scenario in an e-mail format (paragraph 0031). Further, generating a notice receipt and providing the notice receipt in e-mail format would have been well known to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

c. As per claim 4, acquiring player information such as identification and a player's image would have been well known.

d. As per claim 8-11, refer to discussion in claims 1-4 above.

4. Claims 5-7 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koji (JP 2000-162959) in view of Keisuke (JP 2000-022827).

a. As per claim 5, refer to discussion in claim 1 above. Further, Keisuke discloses a simultaneous selection input type of game (paragraph 0032). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the simultaneous selection input type of game of Keisuke to the game system of Koji in order to allow players to play a game that accepts simultaneous selection input from a plurality of players.

b. As per claim 6, Koji discloses a determination means which automatically determines content of selection input when the acquisition means has not acquired an input within a

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determined time and the generation means generates information for performing the multi-player game (paragraph 0023).

c. As per claim 7, Koji discloses determining the content of the selection input of the players at random (paragraph 0031).

d. As per claim 12-14, refer to discussion in claims 5-7 above.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-7915. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30AM to 5:00PM ET.

The central official fax number is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.



Kim Nguyen  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3713

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Date: July 10, 2004